



# The Water Towers of East Africa

Policies and practices for enhancing co-benefits from joint forest and water conservation

## Project background

This project aims to identify and propose innovative practices for strengthening linked forest and water resource governance in order to ensure that forests and water resources are managed jointly (as opposed to separately) and equitably, minimizing or reversing forest degradation and sustaining the delivery of water. The project adopts a multidisciplinary approach that combines biophysical monitoring of forests and water systems with governance assessments.

The project's specific objectives are: (1) to generate evidence that will be used to identify policy and practice options; (2) to conduct local level workshops for sharing and validating knowledge; and (3) to develop and implement capacity strengthening programs in forest and water monitoring, and resource governance.

By generating evidence of the linked-ness of forests and water, raising awareness of it among local communities, and going a step further to build their capacity to monitor forest and water resources and to interpret data they gather, this project will set the stage for more informed local decision making with regard to forests. In particular, it will foster greater understanding among communities of joint forest and water management, building local capacities to govern the resources jointly and identifying institutional arrangements that will foster joint governance.

The project is being conducted in the South West and West Mau as well as in the Mt. Elgon Forest on both Kenya and Uganda sides.

## Project partners



## Project funder



### Countries:



Kenya



Uganda

## Project Sites

7- 2 sites in Mau Forest

3 sites in Mt. Elgon, Kenya

2 sites in Mt. Elgon, Uganda

## Forest area covered:

67998 hectares



Forest station area	Area (Ha)
Cheptais	28581
Kimothon	4630
Sosio	5258
Londiani	9015
Itare	16700
Kapchorwa	416
Bududa	3398
<b>Total</b>	<b>67998</b>

## Data Gathering



Members of community forestry and water users associations:

±7000 members of forest associations

2000 of water user associations



Data on local communities' forest and water governance:

41 key informant interviews;

2104 people in

224 focus group discussions



Citizen scientists monitoring water:

2 sites

Nyando and Nzoia rivers



Participatory management plans under review:

8

(4 PFMPs, 4 SCMPs)

## Capacities built

3 PhD students

4 Masters students

Community members:

 337  465



**Gender concepts and applications to resource management with community and local administrators:**

number of trainings conducted-6 and number of men (92) and women (62) trained



**Forest and water governance and practices for joint forest and water management:**

number of trainings conducted: 9 and number of men (189) and women (163) trained



**Natural resource conflict management:**

3 trainings: A total of 42 men and 25 women



**Citizen science:**

how to use low-cost methods to report data on nitrate level and turbidity.

Number of trainings 2. Number of men (41) and women (19) trained. 1 training manual developed on Volunteer Water Monitoring Manual



Training WRUA and CFA members in forest and water management plans review and development of 3 water management plans and 3 forest plans. Men (101) and women (68) trained



**Feedback meetings with CFAs and WRUAs to disseminate research findings on joint forest and water governance:**

Number of meetings-5 164 CFA and WRUA members participating. Men (94) and Women (70)



Numbers of trees planted:

15,000

(10,000 in Londiani and 5,000 in Itare)



Areas under rehabilitation:

±12

hectares



Community members attended the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Nairobi:

8



Project Advisory Committee (PAC) teams:

3

committees

15

members each for each forest site



PAC Meetings held:

3

Photos by Patrick Sheperd/CIFOR



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Forests, Trees and  
Agroforestry

The CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) is the world's largest research for development program to enhance the role of forests, trees and agroforestry in sustainable development and food security and to address climate change. CIFOR leads FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, INBAR and TBI.

FTA's work is supported by the CGIAR Trust Fund.

[cifor.org/water-towers/](http://cifor.org/water-towers/)

[forestsnews.cifor.org](http://forestsnews.cifor.org)



Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

CIFOR advances human well-being, equity and environmental integrity by conducting innovative research, developing partners' capacity, and actively engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders to inform policies and practices that affect forests and people. CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Center, and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Nairobi, Kenya; Yaounde, Cameroon and Lima, Peru.

